

DECISION RECORD

INTRODUCTION

During the 2003 grazing season the Dry Creek Native Pasture was utilized to 32% leaving an abundance of vegetation from the previous three years of no livestock use. With the newly constructed Corbin Creek Pipeline, old fire rehabilitation nonnative crested wheatgrass seedings have become available to livestock. These seedings were previously not available because of a lack of perennial water in the area of the seedings. This has resulted in cattle being able to graze longer than anticipated in the Dry Creek Native Pasture while still leaving the pasture with light to moderate utilization levels. Thus, unused forage was present in the last pasture scheduled for use during the 2004 grazing season and a subsequent grazing application for temporary nonrenewable grazing (TNR) was received from the permittees.

The environmental consequences of this action have been fully analyzed in environmental assessment (EA) OR-030-04-017. The EA was posted on the Vale District website and a Notice of Proposed Action was published in the Argus Observer on September 24, 2003. The EA was also mailed to various interested publics and no comments were received.

DECISION

After careful review of EA OR-030-04-017 and completion of a Finding of No Significant Impact, it is my decision to implement the proposed action of the EA and authorize 1,100 dry cows to graze 2,207 AUM's of TNR in the Rome South Pasture of the Jackies Butte Allotment (#01101). This action is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (September 2002).

RATIONALE

The authorization of TNR will not cause detrimental affects to the vegetation because it will occur outside of the growing season when plants are quiescent. This TNR grazing authorization is for a one time shift of grazing use outside of the normal permitted grazing dates. Though the grazing use is outside the normal permitted use dates, it will be within the same season of use, therefore there will be no greater impact to the resources present.

Average utilization of the Rome South Pasture will not exceed 40%. Grazing use will merely be made at a slightly different time (fall/winter), during the same grazing season.

Lacking public comment to the contrary, the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is affirmed. Values such as primitiveness, unconfined recreation, solitude, species diversity, scenery, etc will still be available to the public and not affected by the proposed action. Soils, air quality, noxious weeds, wildlife, special status plant species, recreation, cultural resources, and areas of critical environmental concerns will not be affected.

I have determined that this TNR grazing authorization is a reasonable action and that no impacts were identified that will significantly affect any aspect of the resources present. Therefore, the TNR grazing authorization is granted, subject to the limitations included within the authorization.

s/Wayne A. Wetzel

October 8, 2004

Wayne A. Wetzel, Acting Field Manager
Jordan Resource Area

Date